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PRESS RELEASE

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MPD Officer Pleads Guilty To Attempted Receiving Stolen Property and Possession of An Unregistered Firearm – He Was On Duty And In Uniform When He Purchased Goods Believed To Be Stolen –

WASHINGTON - Guillermo Ortiz, 40, a Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officer who had been assigned to the Fourth Police District, pled guilty today to one charge of attempted receiving stolen property and one charge of possession of an unregistered firearm.

The plea, which took place in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, was announced by U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. and D.C. Attorney General Irvin B. Nathan.

The Honorable Judith E. Retchin imposed a suspended sentence of 180 days in prison on each charge, placed Ortiz on supervised probation for a total of two years with the condition that he complete 200 hours of community service, and ordered him to pay a \$2,000 fine.

As part of the plea agreement, Ortiz is resigning from the MPD and forfeiting three unregistered firearms and ammunition found in his apartment during execution of a search warrant. Ortiz has been a member of the MPD for the past nine years.

According to a factual proffer agreed to by Ortiz at today's hearing, on January 24, 2011, a cooperating witness, having learned of Ortiz's interest in buying certain stolen electronics, located Ortiz in the 1400 block of Quincy Street NW. After a brief conversation, Ortiz bought one iPhone and a 22-inch color television from the cooperating witness for \$250. Ortiz gave the cooperating witness \$100 and owed the remaining \$150. The total value of the property was approximately \$820. Ortiz was on duty and in full uniform at the time.

Ortiz was captured on video taking the television out of the cooperating witness's vehicle and placing it into the trunk of a marked police cruiser.

On January 28, 2011, the cooperating witness saw Ortiz inside a restaurant. At that time, Ortiz paid the \$150 he previously owed and asked the cooperating witness if he could get him some gold rings, gold watches, gold necklaces, and two 42-inch flat screen televisions.

On February 16, 2011, the cooperating witness made a telephone call to Ortiz and told him that people were out in Montgomery County stealing at that moment and that they would have two televisions for Ortiz the next day. Ortiz asked for both TVs.

On February 17, 2011, the cooperating witness made another telephone call to Ortiz, notifying him that he was in possession of the two televisions that Ortiz had requested. Ortiz asked the cooperating witness to bring the TVs to Ortiz's apartment in Northwest Washington, and the cooperating witness and an undercover MPD officer drove to Ortiz's building.

Ortiz walked to the cooperating witness's vehicle. After a brief conversation, he took one of the televisions out of the vehicle. The cooperating witness took the other TV out of the vehicle, and they carried the televisions to Ortiz's apartment. While inside Ortiz's apartment, Ortiz paid the cooperating witness \$150 and owed him \$150 for the two televisions. The total value of the televisions was approximately \$1,200.

On February 25, 2011, the cooperating witness contacted Ortiz and told him that there was another television for sale. Ortiz drove his personal car, a blue 2006 Volkswagen Passat bearing a Virginia license plate, to the vicinity of an apartment he believed to be occupied by the cooperating witness's niece (but who was, in fact, an undercover employee of MPD).

Ortiz entered the apartment, met with the cooperating witness, paid \$150 in cash, then carried the TV outside and placed it into the trunk of his car. The meeting was captured by audio and video surveillance. During the meeting the cooperating witness and Ortiz discussed how the cooperating witness obtains stolen property.

On March 8, 2011, members of the FBI and MPD executed a search warrant at Ortiz's apartment. During the execution of the search warrant, three of the TVs purchased by Ortiz from the cooperating witness were recovered. Also found in the apartment were three unregistered firearms, including a shotgun, and ammunition. The firearms and ammunition were found in the master bedroom, where mail matter and other documents bearing Ortiz's name were also found.

The cases of two other MPD officers, Silvestre Bonilla and Dioni Fernandez, who were arrested on the same date as Ortiz and charged with the same offense, are still pending.

In announcing today's guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen and D.C. Attorney General Nathan commended the work of MPD's Internal Affairs Division, which investigated the case. They also thanked the FBI's Washington Field Office for its assistance.

D.C. Attorney General Nathan also commended Assistant Attorney General Sean Farrelly, who handled the prosecution of the gun charges in this case. In addition, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Paralegal Specialist Tasha Harris, Legal Assistants Jared Forney and Krishawn Graham, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Ellen Chubin Epstein and John Crabb for their work prosecuting the corruption investigation.